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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W
----------150940Z 054678 /12
R 141655Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113
INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0312

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, GH, CG, ZA, IR
SUB: NKOMO AND SITHOLE VISIT ACCRA; KAUNDA AND MOBUTU
COMING SOON

1. GHANA IS CONTINUING TO GET SOME VISITOR FALL-OUT
FROM FESTAC IN LAGOS. FROM THE GHANAIAN POINT OF
VIEW, THE JANUARY 13 FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAIRMAN
ACHEAMPONG'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER FORTUITOUSLY OCCURRED
ONLYD DAYS BEFORE FESTAC OPENS, AND GHANA HAS SEIZED
UPON THIS TO INVITE SOME AFRICAN LEADERS TO VISIT
ACCRA BEFORE OR AFTER GOING TO LAGOS.

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2. ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT VISITORS HAS BEEN
JOSHUA NKOMO, WHO ARRIVED ON JANUARY 11 AND ATTENDED BOTH THE MORNING
PARADE AND CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG'S
HUGH EVENING RECEPTION ON JANUARY 13 AT THE CASTLE.
I WAS ABLE TO HAVE ONLY A BRIEF EXCHANGE WITH NKOMO,
BUT HE GREETED ME WARMLY AND SAID THAT DESPITE THE
DIFFICULTIES AHEAD, HE REMAINED OPTIMISTIC AND CONFIDENT

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THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA WOULD BE FOUND.
HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING IVOR RICHARD
AGAIN ON SUNDAY IN MAPUTO.

3. REV. SITHOLE OF ZANU ALSO ARRIVED IN ACCRA ON
JANUARY 11 AND IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR MONROVIA ON
JANUARY 16. HE WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING THE JANUARY 13
FESTIVITIES, BUT NKOMO RECEIVED FAR MORE ATTENTION.
ON ARRIVAL IN ACCRA, SITHOLE AND NKOMO EXCHANGED BARBS
IN SEPARATE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCES.

4. SITHOLE CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE MEETING OF THE
OAU TO DISCUSS THE DECISION OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES
TO SUPPORT NKOMO, A STEP HE DEPLORED AS "MOST UNFORTUNATE,
UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT HAS NO DIVIDED
ZIMBABWE INTO TWO HOSTILE CAMPS." COMMENTING ON THE
GENEVA TALKS, HE SAID NOTHING POSITIVE FOR AFRICA WOULD
COME OUT OF THEM BECAUSE THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE
HAD BEEN MADE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE WHIMS OF IAN
SMITH. FOR HIS PART, NKOMO SAID THE DECISION OF THE
FRONT-LINE STATES SHOWED IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE PEOPLE
WHO WERE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE
WERE FULLY AWARE OF WHO THE REAL LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE
WERE. RE THE GENEVA TALKS, NKOMO SAID THE CONFERENCE
WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE IMPERIALIST FORCES HAD REALIZED
SMITH COULD NO LONGER PRESERVE AND PROTECT THEIR
INTERESTS IN ZIMBABWE, BUT HE DID NOT SPECULATE ON
LIKELY OUTCOMES OF THE TALKS.

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5. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS EXPECTED ON JANUARY 16 FOR A TWO
DAY VISIT AND CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG WILL GIVE A
RECEPTION FOR HIM THAT EVENING.

6. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A GENERAL BABIA AND COLONEL
ELEKI REPRESENTED MOBUTU AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
(MOBUTU HIMSELF ARRIVES ON FEBRUARY 4 FOR TWO DAYS).
MR. S. MTAMBANENGWE AND MR. G.B. NYANDORO REPRESENTED
BISHOP MUZOREWA, BUT NONE OF THESE HAVE MADE MUCH OF
A SPLASH. ALTHOUGH HE HAS RECEIVED VIRTUALLY NO
PUBLICITY. WE ARE TOLD THAT SWAPO'S SAM NUJOMA IS ALSO
HERE AND WILL LEAVE SOON FOR MONROVIA.

7. COMMENT: NKOMO SOUGHT GOG SUPPORT FOR THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT, WITH SITHOLE PUSHING THE CONTRARY
VIEW. THE GHANAIANS APPEAR TO BE PLAYING HARD TO GET,
AND WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN THAT NKOMO'S REPORTED
VIEW THAT THE GOG WILL SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
IS ENTIRELY ACCURATE. MFA COMMISSIONER FELLI HAS

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TOLD ONE OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES THAT GHANA "REGRETTED" THE DECISION OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES TO SUPPORT THE FRONT, ADDING THAT THEY HAD A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR BISHOP MUZOREWA'S FOLLOWING WITHIN ZIMBABWE. FOR THE MOMENT, GHANA APPEARS TO BE KEEPING THEIR OPTIONS OPEN.
SMITH

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